

REMARKS

Claims 23-48 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 23, 28, 30, 31 and 34 are amended to depend from allowable independent claim 42. Claim 22 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited in that claim. Claims 44-48 are added. No new matter is added by these amendments as new claims 45-48 correspond to allowable claims 23-27, respectively, depending from allowable claim 39. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the Advisory Action. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Advisory Action, issued October 22, 2007, states that claims 39-43 are allowed. The Applicant appreciates this indication of allowability and bases the above amendments on this indication. Specifically, claim 22 is canceled, and claims 23, 28, 30, 31 and 34 are amended to depend from allowable claims, as asserted in the Advisory Action. Additionally, newly added claims 44-48 replicate allowable claims 23-27, but depend from allowable claim 39.

Therefore, based on the assertions of the Office Action this application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:KDB/rle

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 13, 2007

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